

*22 March 2006*  
*Wednesday*

## **READINGS**

Psalm 119:97-120; Genesis 45:16-28; I Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 6:13-29

## **DEVOTION**

Lent is not about self-denial and adding another burden or responsibility, but rather, an opportunity to enrich your life by choosing to enhance your relationship with God. Each day of the Lenten season should bring us closer in our walk with Christ.

The verses for today's devotional have a common theme, that of obeying God's laws. In Genesis, the story is told about Joseph's brothers selling him into Egypt. It would be so easy to walk away from those same brothers and go on with his own life, but Joseph chose to work hard, obey God's laws, and was promoted into the position of a ruler of Egypt. The opportunity arose for Joseph to help his brothers later in life and he took advantage of it. In following God's laws, Joseph was able to save his family and father from famine. We can be assured that by following God's laws, God will give to us what He has promised us.

The book of Mark describes how Herod was not able to keep God's laws. He made a promise to deliver anything his niece wanted. He respected John the Baptist's righteousness but because of his offer, he had John executed. Herod knew he was disobeying God's law but felt torn by honoring his word. Be careful in what you promise to others that you do not compromise your beliefs.

According to I Corinthians, we need to be careful that we do not lead our brothers astray. It is up to us to set an example for others to follow. If we exercise freedoms that cause our brothers to fall, we have sinned against our brothers and therefore sinned against Christ.

During this Lenten season, take the time to reflect on God's laws and design a personal plan to follow God's laws. Psalm 119 says that by following the Lord's commands, we gain understanding, insight and wisdom.

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